The Communicator
Christmas Holiday Edition 2009
Vol. 9 Issue 3
Haliburton County's Good News Fun Magazine
FREE
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December 2009

Turkey Cooking Times....

Roasting Times 325°F(160°C)		Barbeque Times Medium Heat	
Weight	Stuffed	Unstuffed	Unstuffed
6 – 8 lbs (3.0 – 3.5 kg)	3 – 3 ¼ hours	2 ½ - 2 ¾ hours	1 – 1 ¾ hours
8 – 10 lbs (3.5 – 4.5 kg)	3 ¼ - 3 ½ hours	2 ¾ - 3 hours	1 ¼ - 2 hours
10 – 12 lbs (4.5 – 5.5 kg)	3 ½ - 3 ¾ hours	3 – 3 ¼ hours	1 ½ - 2 ¼ hours
12 – 16 lbs (5.5 – 7.0 kg)	3 ¾ - 4 hours	3 ¼ - 3 ½ hours	2 – 2 ¾ hours
16 – 22 lbs (7.0 – 10.0 kg)	4 – 4 ½ hours	3 ½ - 4 hours	2 ½ - 3 ½ hours

Remember that each oven varies. It is recommended that you check your turkey with a proper cooking thermometer... These times are to be used as a guideline only.

I've cooked my turkey to the proper endpoint temperature as you've recommended, but it still appears to have a red or pink coloration. Why is that?

Red or pink coloration is caused by the age and sex of the bird, dietary components, processing techniques or the ventilation system of the oven used for cooking. Red or pink colouring does not affect the taste or safety of the product as long as the meat has been cooked to the proper temperature. (ie. when a meat thermometer in the inner thigh reads 180° F (82°C) for a stuffed turkey or 170° F (77°C) for an unstuffed turkey).

Pictured right is a different way to present your cooked turkey this year. This design was done using tin foil - properly cut and place on the turkey prior to and during cooking. It's great for those families with a sense of humour!!

Yes Virginia... There is a Santa Claus

Where does the expression "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" actually come from?.. The following will explain… it is an actual copy of what appeared in the Editorial Page of the New York Sun in 1879….

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus
Editorial Page, New York Sun, 1897

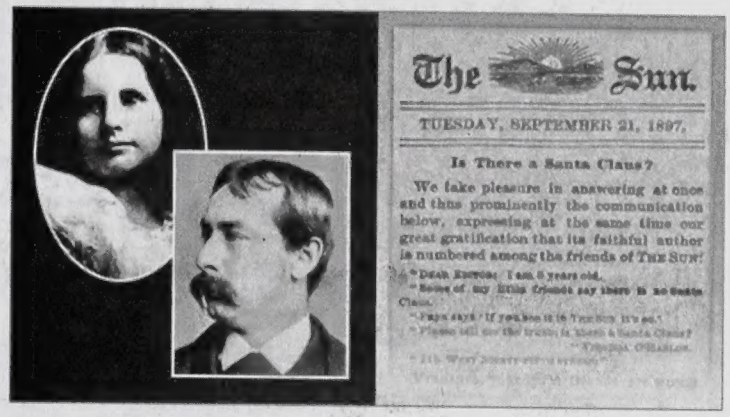
We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.



The Sun.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1897.

Is There a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

"VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

"115 West Twenty-eighth street, city."

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!

SANTA CLAUS OFFICE

Santa Claus lives in the Finnish Lapland. You can meet him every day of the year in Santa Claus Office, at Santa Claus Village, Arctic Circle, near the town of Rovaniemi in Finland. You can easily reach the village by air, train or car. Santa Claus Village is visited by an estimated 500 000 tourists every year!

Who was Virgina and what ever happened to her? Find out on pg. 9...

Warmest Wishes

for good health & happiness to you & your family, and a Happy Holiday Season.

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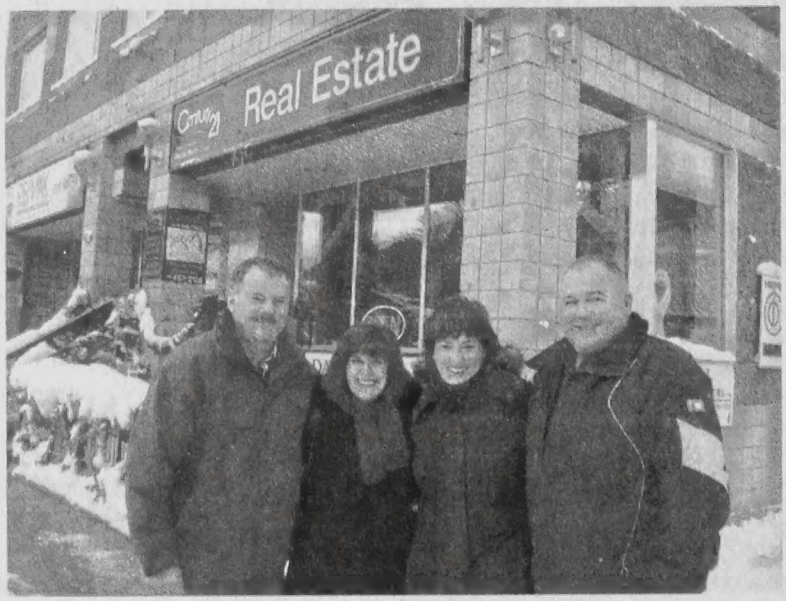
Spotlight on Business

by Stephen Patrick

Century 21 Granite Group

Granite Reality Sells Century 21 Franchise

"From the Stamp Family to the Hodgson Family"



Derrell and Kim Stamp, owners of Haliburton's Century 21 franchise for the past nine years, know this about the real estate business: hard work, a staff that you treat like family, honest, straight-forward service to your clients, will get you through the toughest of times. "Our business philosophy is pretty simple," says Derrell. "When Kim and I bought the Century 21 franchise in 1998, our goal was never to be the biggest. We wanted to give our clients honest service, attract a good staff, and create a happy workplace. We've never felt we had to expand."

But now, after nine very successful years, Derrell and Kim have accepted an offer from Andrew and Anne Hodgson to buy the franchise and take that success into the next decade. "Andrew and Anne are about the same age Kim and I were back in 1998: and we couldn't be happier than to be passing our business on to them," says Derrell. "We share many of the same values and goals – and we're confident the company, and of course our staff, will be in excellent hands." Derrell and Kim, along with their son Greg, who's also been a Century 21 agent, will continue with the company as agents and brokers.

Andrew Hodgson and his wife Anne moved back to Haliburton three years ago when Andrew became a real estate agent and joined Century 21. Anne has just completed her real estate exams (with marks in the high 90s, of course) and can't wait to begin helping her clients across the County. Andrew is Haliburton born and bred, the son of the late J. Douglas Hodgson, and nephew of former Ontario MPPs Glen and Louis: his brother Chris served as Dysart et al Reeve, and later as Haliburton's MPP and prominent cabinet minister in the Conservative government of Mike Harris. Andrew also carved out an impressive behind-the-scenes political career at Queen's Park as an organizer and advisor, leading finally to a stint as Chief of Staff to then Opposition Leader John Tory.

Anne Hodgson has also been deeply involved in Ontario politics as a policy advisor and in 2001 became Chief of Staff to Associate Health Minister Helen Johns: at the time Anne was the youngest Chief of Staff at Queen's Park. Since moving to Haliburton she's been active in community organizations like

Century 21 cont'd.... pg. 5...

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Thank you to all our advertisers & readers!!

Granite Reality Sells Century 21 Franchise

... from pg. 4

the 4Cs and the Arts Council, as a Board Member and Treasurer. "Haliburton is a truly amazing community," she says, "particularly in its tradition of volunteerism, community service, and community spirit."

Both Kim and Derrell are extremely proud of the team they've built up at Century 21, and admit that they've been gratified and flattered over the years by the number of excellent agents who've wanted to join them. "We've always wanted to take the best possible care of our staff, and as Derrell says, we never thought we had to expand," says Kim. "We were just an office of six when we began back in 1998." But, as Derrell adds, "when excellent, well-qualified agents keep knocking on your door, you find yourself saying 'yes' pretty quickly." The Stamps have opened offices in Minden and Carnarvon and now have 27 realtors in the company.

Kim is particularly proud of a recent gift (of an impressive $1000) their agents gave them to help with a holiday vacation: "you'll notice that the plaque they gave us says "from your family" at Century 21. That means so much to us: and we'd never have considered selling to anyone who we thought wouldn't carry on that tradition. In fact, I must tell you that years ago I worked for Andrew's father at the School Board: I loved every minute I worked there: Doug Hodgson was a wonderful man, I felt so blessed to be a part of the workplace with Doug. And when I sit here and look across the desk at Andrew, I see the same kind of man, with the same qualities. That makes this transition very special to me."

Over the past three years Andrew's carved out an impressive record as a Century 21 agent, winning awards for most units sold, and highest dollar value. But both the Hodgsons and the Stamps know that you can take nothing for granted in real estate. Derrell and Kim survived the massive downturn in real estate that afflicted Haliburton in the early 90s by sticking closely to their family work ethic and devotion to their client's every need. "When you see the number of agents in the County drop from around 125 to just 55 in a few years, which is what happened in 1992, you know how quickly the market can change. The downturn of the last year hasn't been nearly as bad, but it's certainly had its challenges," says Derrell.

"We've certainly seen some softening of prices, particularly last spring," says Andrew, "but the market is still active. I think too that in Haliburton local ownership and a strong connection to the community is very important. I'm going to try and carry on the tradition of Derrell and Kim in providing leadership to our company, and a commitment to our community. Real estate isn't just about selling a home: it's about a real relationship with individuals and families that doesn't just end with the sell is done." Derrell adds that "Kim and I still get calls from clients even a couple of years after they've bought their place. Just the other day a client from three years ago phoned to ask about snowplowing, who should he call: and we're delighted to help whenever we can. It's about service, and respect, plain and simple."

And one thing's for certain: Andrew and Anne Hodgson are 100 percent committed to maintaining the standard of professional excellence established by Kim and Derrell Stamp, and their sales representatives over the years.

You can reach Century 21 in Haliburton at 457-2128: in Minden at 286-2138; and in Carnarvon at 489-9968.

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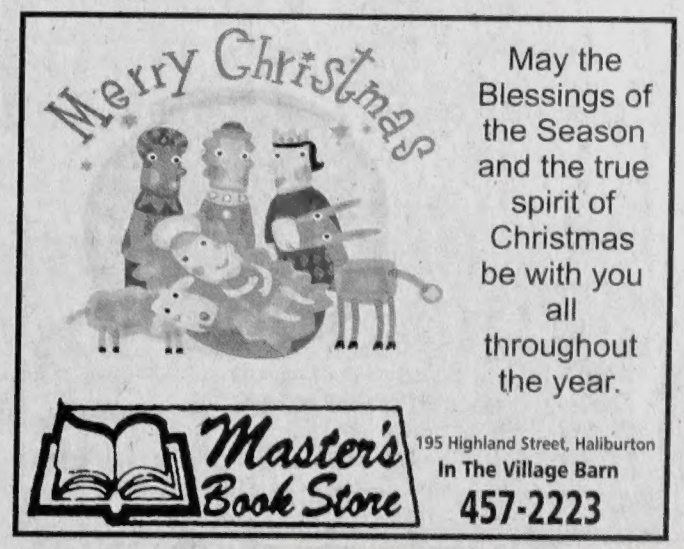


Dumb Criminals

Dumb Criminals

Driver demands speeding ticket

"I was a rookie California Highway patrolman in 1967, assigned to Norwalk in Los Angeles County. The San Gabriel Freeway had just been opened and traffic was really flying.

"I clocked a motorist at 87 miles per hour in an old Studebaker Lark. The gentleman was very polite and readily admitted he was speeding. To reward him for his honesty, I told him I was only going to write him a ticket for 75 in a 65 zone. Had I ticketed him for 85, a court appearance would have been mandatory resulting in a probable two days in jail. The man strenuously objected to the reduced speeding ticket.

'You told me you clocked me at 87 MPH and that is what you have to write the ticket for,' he said.

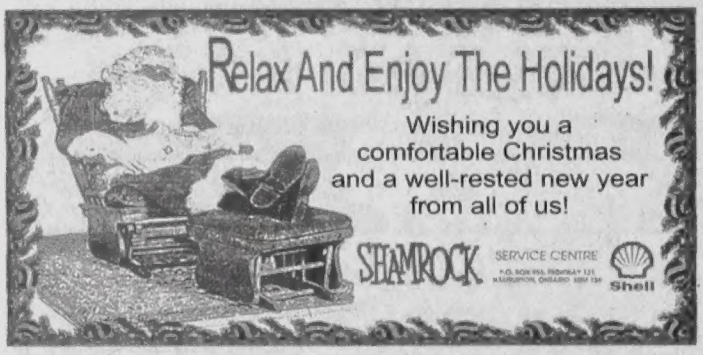
"He explained that the guys he worked with told him his Studebaker would not go 86 MPH and he was going to prove them wrong. He wanted a speeding ticket to prove he was going 85 or better. I obliged him with a ticket for 87 MPH and he left happy as a clam."

Brian Griffin, CHP Sergeant, retired.

Thieves leave tracks in snow

From Kentucky:

"Two local boys were out walking around in the fresh snow one morning. While they were out they decided it might be fun to break into a couple of cars. The officer that responded to the call noticed the tracks in the snow around the first car and followed them to the next one. Both cars had been broken into and some of the contents removed. The officer then followed the tracks to a nearby trailer park. The parents gave consent to search. The stolen items were discovered in the boys' rooms. Case closed."



Claim: The name of Boxing Day comes from the need to rid the house of empty boxes the day after Christmas. Status: False

Americans have any inkling that there even is such a thing as Boxing Day, let alone what the reason might be for a holiday so named. Even though Boxing Day is celebrated in Australia, Britain, New Zealand, and Canada, not all that many in those countries have much of a notion as to why they get the 26th of December off. Boxing Day might well be a statutory holiday in some of those lands, but it's not a well understood one.

Despite the lively images suggested by the name, it has nothing to do with pugilistic expositions between tanked-up family members who have dearly been looking forward to taking a round out of each other for the past year. Likewise, it does not gain its name from the overpowering need to rid the house of an excess of wrappings and mountains of now useless cardboard boxes the day after St. Nick arrived to turn a perfectly charming and orderly home into a maelstrom of discarded tissue paper.

The name also has nothing to do with returning unwanted gifts to the stores they came from, hence its common association with hauling about boxes on the day after Christmas.

The Actual Meaning of Boxing Day??

The holiday's roots can be traced to Britain, where Boxing Day is also known as St. Stephen's Day. Reduced to the simplest essence, its origins are found in a long-ago practice of giving cash or durable goods to those of the lower classes. Gifts among equals were exchanged on or before Christmas Day, but beneficences to those less fortunate were bestowed the day after.

And that's about as much as anyone can definitively say about its origin because once you step beyond that point, it's straight into the quagmire of debated claims and dueling folklorists. Which, by the way, is what we're about to muddy our boots with. Although there is general agreement that the holiday is of British origin and it has to do with

Boxing Day cont'd... pg. 7...

The Origin of Boxing Day Cont'd....

... from pg. 6

giving presents to the less fortunate, there is still dispute as to how the name came about or precisely what unequal relationship is being recognized.

At various times, the following "origins" have been loudly asserted as the correct one:

Centuries ago, ordinary members of the merchant class gave boxes of food and fruit to tradespeople and servants the day after Christmas in an ancient form of Yuletide tip. These gifts were an expression of gratitude to those who worked for them, in much the same way that one now tips the paperboy an extra $20 at Christmas time or slips the building's superintendent a bottle of fine whisky. Those long-ago gifts were done up in boxes, hence the day coming to be known as "Boxing Day."

Christmas celebrations in the old days entailed bringing everyone together from all over a large estate, thus creating one of the rare instances when everyone could be found in one place at one time. This gathering of his extended family, so to speak, presented the lord of the manor with a ready-made opportunity to easily hand out that year's stipend of necessities. Thus, the day after Christmas, after all the partying was over and it was almost time to go back to far-flung homesteads, serfs were presented with their annual allotment of practical goods. Who got what was determined by the status of the worker and his relative family size, with spun cloth, leather goods, durable food supplies, tools, and whatnot being handed out. Under this explanation, there was nothing voluntary about this transaction; the lord of the manor was obligated to supply these goods. The items were chucked into boxes, one box for each family, to make carrying away the results of this annual restocking easier; thus, the day came to be known as "Boxing Day."

Many years ago, on the day after Christmas, servants in Britain carried boxes to their masters when they arrived for the day's work. It was a tradition that on this day all employers would put coins in the boxes as a special end-of-the-year gift. In a closely-related version of this explanation, apprentices and servants would on that day get to smash open small earthenware boxes left for them by their masters. These boxes would house small sums of money specifically left for them.

This dual-versioned theory melds the two previous ones together into a new form — namely, the employer who was obligated to hand out something on Boxing Day, but this time to recipients who were not working the land for him and thus were not dependent on him for all they wore and ate. The "box" thus becomes something beyond ordinary compensation (in a way goods to landed serfs was not), yet it's also not a gift in that there's nothing voluntary about it. Under this theory, the boxes are an early form of Christmas bonus, something employees see as their entitlement.

Boxes in churches for seasonal donations to the needy were opened on Christmas Day, and the contents distributed by the clergy the following day. The contents of this alms box originated with the ordinary folks in the parish who were under no direct obligation to provide anything at all and were certainly not tied to the recipients by a employer/employee relationship. In this case, the "box" in "Boxing Day" comes from that one gigantic lock box the donations were left in.

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top ten

BING CROSBY CHRISTMAS SONGS

1. *White Christmas*
2. *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*
3. *Christmas in Kilarney*
4. *Mele Kalikimaka*
5. *I'll Be Home for Christmas*
6. *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*
7. *Jingle Bells*
8. *Silver Bells*
9. *Silent Night*
10. *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Source: www.gonzagabulletin.com

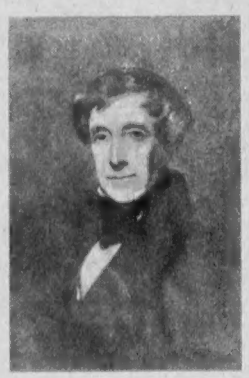
Remember This At Christmas Time

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should've known. ONLY women would be able to drag a chubby man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

Origins of Santa



It is amazing but true that the common, popular view of Santa that we all have today, along with all the crazy things around Santa like the sleigh, the reindeer and the chimney, all came largely from two publishing events that occurred in the 1800s and one advertising campaign in this century.

Clement Moore wrote "The Night Before Christmas" in 1822 for his family. It was picked up by a newspaper, then reprinted in magazines and it spread like wildfire. Moore admitted authorship in 1838. If you read the poem you will find that he names the reindeer, invents the sleigh, comes up with the chimney and the bag of toys, etc. Nearly everyone in America has been able to recognize or recite this poem since the 1830s.

Then, between 1863 and 1886, Harper's Weekly (a popular magazine of the time) ran a series of engravings by Thomas Nast. From these images come the concepts of Santa's workshop, Santa reading letters, Santa checking his list and so on. Coca-Cola also played a role in the Santa image by running a set of paintings by Haddon Sundblom in its ads between 1931 to 1964.

The red and white suit came, actually, from the original Saint Nicholas. Those colors were the colors of the traditional bishop's robes.

A Classic Christmas

May the caring spirit of Christmas warm your heart and bring a smile to your face this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

from the families of DAVID A.P. SHAPIERA and staff

(705) 286-2021

Ho, Ho, Ho

Our best wishes for happy holidays! Hope your Christmas is merry and bright and your new year brings you everything you've dreamed of!

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Who was Virginia ?

Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" (as re-published on page 3 of this issue) was an immediate sensation, and became one of the most famous editorials ever written. It first appeared in the The New York Sun in 1897, over a hundred years ago, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.

Thirty-six years after her letter was printed, Virginia O'Hanlon recalled the events that prompted her letter:

"Quite naturally I believed in Santa Claus, for he had never disappointed me. But when less fortunate little boys and girls said there wasn't any Santa Claus, I was filled with doubts. I asked my father, and he was a little evasive on the subject.

"It was a habit in our family that whenever any doubts came up as to how to pronounce a word or some question of historical fact was in doubt, we wrote to the Question and Answer column in 'The Sun". Father would always say, 'If you see it in the "The Sun", it's so,' and that settled the matter.

"'Well, I'm just going to write "The Sun" and find out the real truth,' I said to father.

"He said, 'Go ahead, Virginia. I'm sure "The Sun" will give you the right answer, as it always does.'

And so Virginia sat down and wrote to her parents' favorite newspaper.

Her letter found its way into the hands of a veteran editor, Francis P. Church. Son of a Baptist minister, Church had covered the Civil War for "The New York Times" and had worked on the "The New York Sun" for 20 years, more recently as an anonymous editorial writer. Church, a sardonic man, had for his personal motto, "Endeavour to clear your mind of cant." When controversial subjects had to be tackled on the editorial page, especially those dealing with theology, the assignments were usually given to Church.

Now, he had in his hands a little girl's letter on a most controversial matter, and he was burdened with the responsibility of answering it.

"Is there a Santa Claus?" the childish scrawl in the letter asked. At once, Church knew that there was no avoiding the question. He must answer, and he must answer truthfully. And so he turned to his desk, and he began his reply which was to become one of the most memorable editorials in newspaper history. Church married shortly after the editorial appeared. He died in April, 1906, leaving no children.

Virginia O'Hanlon went on to graduate from Hunter College with a Bachelor of Arts degree at age 21. The following year she received her Master's from Columbia, and in 1912 she began teaching in the New York City school system, later becoming a principal. After 47 years, she retired as an educator. Throughout her life she received a steady stream of mail about her Santa Claus letter, and to each reply she attached an attractive printed copy of the Church editorial. Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas died on May 13, 1971, at the age of 81, in a nursing home in Valatie, N.Y.

Claim: The term "Immaculate Conception" refers to the conception of Jesus by the Virgin Mary.

Status: False.

Origins: The term "immaculate conception" is often used generally to denote the conception of a child by a woman who has not engaged in sexual intercourse, and specifically to the conception of Jesus by the Virgin Mary. Both usages are incorrect.

"Immaculate Conception" refers to neither the conception of Jesus nor to a virgin birth. It is a specific doctrine of Roman Catholicism decreeing that the Virgin Mary was preserved free from original sin by divine grace from the moment of her conception. Although this dogma had been argued since the twelfth century, it was not made official until 1854 by Pope Pius IX. Since then December 8 has been observed as a Roman Catholic feast in commemoration of the Immaculate Conception.

Stedmans Building and Mall Sold

by Stephen Patrick

The Stedmans Building and Mall has been sold to Brampton Businessman and and Property Manager Sam Guerra, President of Mishda Holdings Inc. The building has been owned for almost thirty years by the late Vince Connaughan and his wife Rose, where they operated the Stedman's store until the late 1990s.

Sam Guerra has known the Haliburton area for many years – he's an avid snowmobiler – and has no doubt about its economic future. "It's become such a home for retirees, and of course it's just so beautiful – it's a very attractive area for investment, no question."

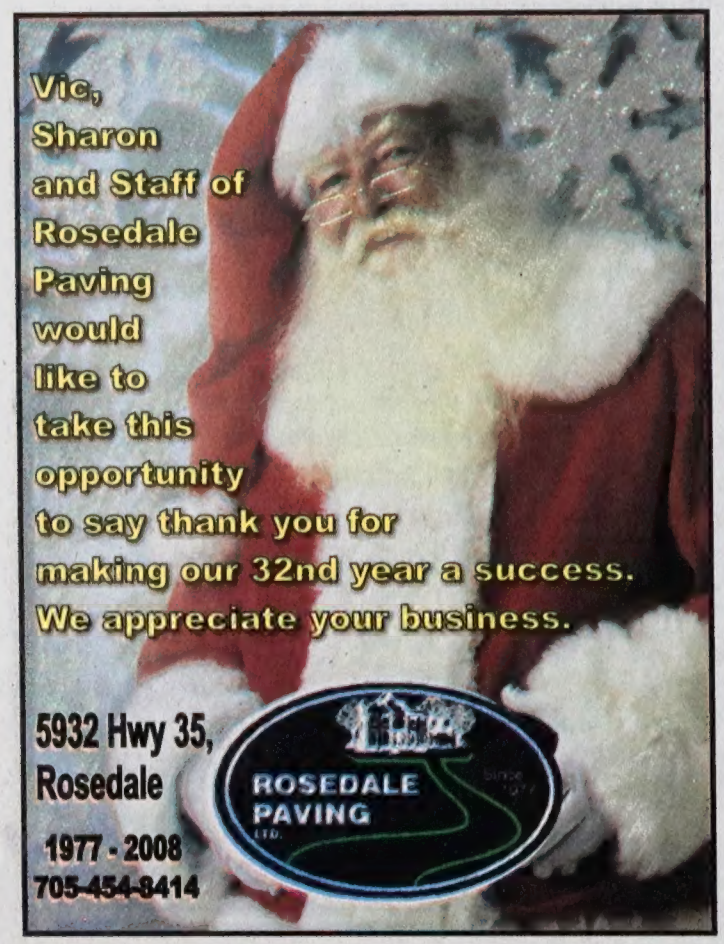
Guerra started out his career as a power plant engineer, but soon found himself in the food and vending business. He and his sons have run a very successful company, Festive Foods Vending and Catering, for many years, generating up to $5 million in sales annually. He sold part of his company recently to the Score group, and now, he says, "after working seven days a week for 35 years, I want to concentrate on some other projects. We still have part of the Vending Company, which is very successful. But we've also been involved in property development and management for many years. We've developed properties in Milton and Brampton, and we also have an Industrial Plaza on Saunders Road in Barrie. Haliburton's a little further away, but we felt this was an excellent opportunity. I'm looking forward to meeting many new people in the community, and of course the building's tenants: we see lots of areas where we can improve the building's facilities: we're going to be good landlords, and good members of the Haliburton community."

Improvements, Upgrading Planned

Sam Guerra expects to be quite hands-on as a property owner in the next little while, and says he's grateful to Real Estate Agent Joe Sebesta for all his help during and after the sale.

For Rose Connaughan and her family it's a time of mixed emotions: relief that the building is sold and is in such good hands, and some inevitable sadness that her husband Vince passed away just a few short weeks before the deal was concluded. But for Haliburtonians, it's good news all round in that Highland Street's major building will be professionally owned and operated for the foreseeable future.

Pictured left is Joe Sebesta and at right is new owner Sam Guerra



An Eye Catching Christmas Display...

This looks like a disaster in the making, but it's just a fun little display that has many a head turning.

How Turkey became the Festive Bird.....

In England, the harvest festival has been celebrated for many years. The story goes that Queen Elizabeth was sitting with the troops eating roast goose to celebrate the harvest festival. News was brought to her that the Spanish Armada had sunk on its way to attack England. The queen was so delighted that she ordered a second goose to celebrate the good news and thus, the goose became the choice bird at festival time in England.

When the pilgrims came to the New World, they carried on the tradition of celebrating the harvest festival but geese were not plentiful. Since there were lots of wild turkeys and they were easier to find, they roasted turkeys instead.

How the Turkey became the Bird of choice at Christmas....

Historically in England, swans, peacocks and cranes were roasted for special occasions. The story goes that because of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", he is credited for popularizing the serving of turkey for Christmas dinner. Ebenezer Scrooge purchased the large prize winning turkey for Christmas dinner when seeing the error of his ways.

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If you've ever been curious about learning about the fur trade then come to the Minden arena, January 10th from 9am to 4pm. You'll watch as there will be live fur demonstrations from skilled professionals to teach younger generations and older how to skin an animal and what the fur will be used for. There will also be a fur competition with prizes and plaques awarded to the best skinner. The organizers ask you to bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank. Contact Paul Arkwright at 705-887-2754 for more information.

The 3 stages of man:

He believes in Santa Claus.

He doesn't believe in Santa Claus.

He is Santa Claus.

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Cree: Mitho Makosi Kesikansi
Danish: Glædelig Jul og godt nytår
Dutch: Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar!
Egyptian - Colo sana wintom tiebeen
Finnish - Hyvää Joulua or Hauskaa Joulua - 0nnellista uutta vuotta
Fijian - Me Nomuni na marau ni siga ni sucu dei na yabaki vou
French - Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!
German - Froehliche Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr!
Greek - Kala Christougenna Ki'eftihismenos O Kenourios Chronos
Greenlandic - Juullimi Ukiortaassamilu Pilluarit
Hawaiian - Mele Kalikimaka & Hauoli Makahiki Hou
Hebrew - Mo'adim Lesimkha. Shanah
Hindi Shubh Naya Baras
Hungarian - Kellemes karácsonyi ünnepeket és Boldog újévet!
Icelandic - Gleðileg Jól og Farsaelt Komandi ár!
Iraqi - Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah
Irish - Nollaig Shona Dhuit
Iroquois - Ojenyunyat Sungwiyadeson homungradon nagwutut & Ojenyunyat osrasay
Italian - Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
Japanese - Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto
Latin - Pax hominibus bonae voluntatis
Lebanese - Milad Saeed wa Sanaa Mubarakah
Mandarin - Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan
Maltese - Nixtieqlek Milied Tajjeb u Sena Tajba
Mongolian - Zul saryn bolon shine ony mend devshuulye
Norweigan/Nynorsk - Eg ynskjer hermed Dykk alle ein God Jul og Godt Nyttår
Norweigan/Bokmål - God Jul og Godt Nyttår
Ojibwe (Chippewa) - Niibaa' anami'egiizhigad & Aabita Biboon
Polish - Wesolych Swiat i Szczesliwego Nowego Roku.
Portuguese - Boas Festas e um feliz Ano Novo
Romanian - Craciun fericit si un An Nou fericit!
Russian - Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva i s Novim Godom
Scots Gaelic - Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath ur!
Serbian - Sretan Bozic. Vesela Nova Godine
Sicilian - Bon Natali e Prosperu Annu Novu !
Somali - ciid wanaagsan iyo sanad cusub oo fiican.
Slovakian - Vesele Vianoce a stastny novy rok
Spanish - Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo
Swahili - °Krismas Njema Na Heri Za Mwaka Mpya°
Swedish - God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Tamil - Nathar Puthu Varuda Valthukkal
Thai - Suksan Wan Christmas lae Sawadee Pee Mai
Turkish - Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun
Ukrainian - Veseloho Vam Rizdva i Shchastlyvoho Novoho Roku!
Vietnamese - Chuc Mung Giang Sinh - Chuc Mung Tan Nien
Welsh - Nadolig LLawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda
Yiddish - Gute Vaynakhtn un a Gut Nay Yor
Zulu - Sinifesela Ukhisimusi Omuhle Nonyaka Omusha Onempumelelo

Language Fact...

Today, there are more than 2 700 different languages spoken in the world, with more than 7 000 dialects. In Indonesia alone, 365 different languages are spoken. More than 1,000 different languages are spoken in Africa. The most difficult language to learn is Basque, which is spoken in north-western Spain and south-western France. It is not related to any other language in the world. Mandarin is the most spoken language in the world, followed by English. But as home language, Spanish is the second most spoken in the world.

The "invention" of language is not known except for references in the Bible. It is not known what language Adam and Eve spoke. The first mention of different languages is the reference to the tower of Babel when different tongues were bestowed.

The invention of writing, however, is credited to the Sumerians of Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium BC. Their descendants, the Sumero-Babylonians, developed the time system that we use today: an hour divided into 60 minutes, which are divided into 60 seconds.

BRING IT ON...

Seasons Greetings from the gang at..

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Plan a party to decorate it with small squares of suit tied with ribbon, strings of cranberries and popcorn, small net sachets filled with fat or butter, and roping of tiny pretzels strung on paper ribbon. Decorative crackers placed among the pine branches also make endearing ornaments. Use paper ribbon to attach the decorations. Make the colors festive.

Make sure too, that it is easy for the birds and squirrels to loosen and remove food gifts tied with the ribbon. You won't have to worry about food. Serve the snacks you'll be using to decorate the tree, popcorn, pretzels, crackers and cranberries. Add some steaming hot chocolate as the finale, and you should have a satisfied crew.

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Give Holiday Trimmings A Second Life

Americans use 38 thousand miles of holiday ribbon each year -enough to tie a bow around the Earth!

There is a surefire way to have your holiday gifts keep on giving-recycle. It's estimated that Americans generate some four million extra tons of trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's alone.

Industry experts from Waste Management would like to remind consumers that the holidays are no time to take a holiday from recycling.

For example, Americans mail more than two billion new holiday cards every year. Why not use these cards in crafts projects, instead of forwarding them to the nearest landfill? Or consider sending some holiday e-mail messages.

The same goes for the estimated 38 thousand miles of holiday ribbon used each year. That's enough ribbon to tie a bow around the Earth. Instead of holiday gift wrap and ribbon, use reusable gift bags or plain, old-fashioned newspaper comics when you wrap.

Another way you can give the earth a gift this holiday season is to use china at your holiday gathering instead of paper plates. And don't forget to add your holiday scraps to the compost heap.

On Comet, On Cupid...

On Dunder and Blixem???

Can you recite the names of Santa's eight reindeer? If so, you probably do it by recalling the first few lines of the 1949 song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer":

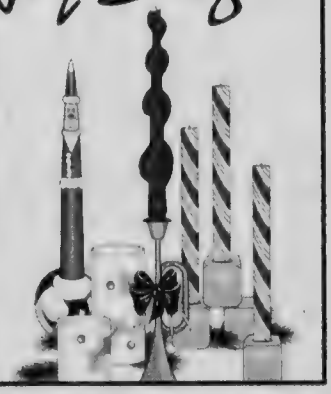
You know Dasher and Dancer, and Prancer and Vixen;
Comet and Cupid, and Donner and Blitzen . . .

Although hardly anyone realizes it, two of those names are wrong when compared to the work that added eight (individually named) reindeer to the nascent Santa Claus legend: "A Visit from Saint Nicholas," first published in 1823.

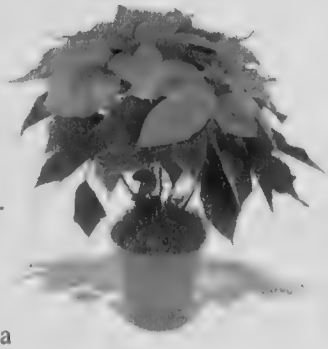
These are indeed the names that appeared in the original 1823 publication of "A Visit from Saint Nicholas":

"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer, and Vixen,
On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Dunder and Blixem.

Let The Joy Begin
Merry Christmas from our family to yours!
The Rowden Family of D & K Masonry



Claim: Poinsettia plants are poisonous to humans.
Status: False.



Have you ever heard a warning like the following?
Don't ever let your kids eat the poinsettias! They are deadly poisonous, and every year several poor unsuspecting little ones are killed at Christmas time by taking just the slightest nibble from a poinsettia plant.

Scary stuff. Luckily for us, it's not true. It's a wonderfully persistent myth though, and it seems to have arisen from a long-ago death of a child's being attributed to the wrong cause. From a fact sheet prepared by Ecke Poinsettia Growers:

The poinsettia poison myth had its origin in 1919 when a two-year-old child of an Army officer stationed in Hawaii died of poisoning, and the cause was incorrectly assumed to be a poinsettia leaf. Since that non-poinsettia death in 1919, there haven't been any real ones either. And no wonder: a 50 lb. child would have to eat more than 1.25 lbs. of poinsettia bracts (about 500 to 600 leaves) to exceed the experimental doses, according to the POISINDEX Information Service. (POISINDEX is the primary resource used by most poison control centers.) Further, the American Medical Association's Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants lists nothing more than occasional vomiting as a side effect of ingesting otherwise harmless poinsettia leaves. And in 1975 the Consumer Products Safety Commission cited lack of substantial evidence in its decision to deny a petition requiring warning labels for poinsettias.

Reindeer are Real....

It is man's most ancient herd animal, the first animals being raised around 15,000 years ago. Up until about 12,000 years ago, reindeer grazed over a vast area of Europe. Rock paintings by primitive peoples featuring them are widespread, as are discoveries of tools made from reindeer horn. There was even a period of European prehistory in a part of France called Dordogne that is sometimes called "the civilization of reindeer." The only surviving part of such a civilization might be found in Lapland, which is the northern part of Norway, Sweden and Finland. There are only a few thousand Lapps, but they own herds of many thousands of reindeer. From them the Lapps obtain meat, milk, hair for weaving, hides to make tents and clothing, and horn, from which they make households. They are also used to pull heavily laden sleds. It is all these multiple uses that have made reindeer so endearing to people in the North.

Caribou, the name by which the Americans are more familiar with reindeer, comes from an Indian word.

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Gravity Coffee House Expands its Menu

by Zoe Cittern

Lila Sweet is the manager of the Gravity Coffee House in Minden and she prides herself on her 'healthy and delicious food' something that Mindenites have come to love over the six years that the café has been in town. Aimed around a relaxing and cozy atmosphere the café offers a large selection of teas, coffees and soft drinks along with delicious sandwiches, muffins, cookies, salads, crushers (grilled sandwiches -- a hot favourite with the customers) soups and other delectable lunch offerings. The café is now expanding to offer a dinner service which will run until 7pm on Fridays and Saturdays. The Indian cuisine that Lila offers at lunch was such a popular hit with the locals that she decided to extend her hours and service.

James McBride is the new chef at Gravity House and has worked in four star resorts and restaurants around the world. James immediately realized how much international cuisine would appeal to the Gravity House's customers.

Lila herself often adapts the menu to feature food that she personally enjoys: she explains that she "grew up on Indian food and has always loved it. It seems as though the area around here has a hunger for different tastes and cultural experiences." Lila continues by saying that "customers were asking us to introduce it as a dinner menu as well, they were really excited about it and people were taking it home for dinner too. It's an elective mix here, we have Caribbean fusion, Mexican fusion etc." Dinner reservations are appreciated and all of the usual fare will be offered at dinner too.

The Indian meals include butter chicken, vindaloos, channa masala, samosas, beef madras and many more selections such as shepherds pie and lasagne. James says that he has cooked Indian

Gravity cont'd... pg. 17...

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Happy Holidays from SUBWAY

Gravity Coffee House Cont'd...

... from pg. 16

meals before "I try to aim for traditional Indian home cooking. It's new and interesting for the locals and I'm excited about that." James moved away from the big city rat race and settled in Minden two years ago: he says now he has "more creative control over the menu and enjoys working at a laid back establishment." Another aspect that is new to the cafe is that they've added a clay pizza oven. Their kitchen is pretty cosy so it's hung by chains from the ceiling. They can now dish up gourmet personal sized pizzas.

Along with Chef Yuki Renel who has worked at the café for the past two and half years, the threesome have created somewhere intimate to enjoy a lunch and now evening meals. Lila says that more "professionals are coming to the cafe with the lure of the free wifi we offer here which makes it a perfect setting for a business lunch."

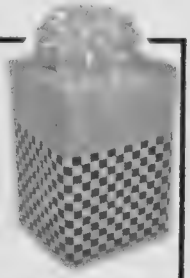
Lila was born in Toronto and worked with her father, Gerry Wills on catering projects in the city; they ran a snack bar in Toronto Island together which still functions in the summer months. After cottaging in the area for many years Gerry decided to buy a house in the region and "as the building here was sitting empty he bought it. It was a snap decision but it definitely worked out." Lila says that she loves "the rich arts community and the cultural centre in town, people have been doing really great things here, it's a great place to call home." Lila continues by saying that she loves "working here, it's like a big tea party, I love the social aspect and the creativity of making the drinks and decorating the food." Lila became a barista in 2005 and there are a multitude of drinks on offer including smoothies, iced lattes, slushees, floats, fountain soda, espresso bar. Loose teas and ground and whole bean coffee can be purchased to take home and Lila even sells unique tea accessories which make for

perfect Christmas gifts or birthday presents.

The cafe caters to dietary restrictions they have sugar free products, rice bread, soy cheese so they can cater to vegans and celiacs. They also serve breakfast on Saturdays from 10-11.30 such as waffles, breakfast burritos and they serve eggs everyday they are open. Lila hopes to expand the business in the future by renovating the upstairs area for parties and events. They currently are open to cater for private parties and they recently held a successful Indian vegetarian feast there. If you'd like to host a party there and learn about a selection of different menus you can call them on 286-4804.

The Gravity House is open from Tuesdays to Thursdays 10-4.30pm and Fridays and Saturdays 10-7pm.

Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year



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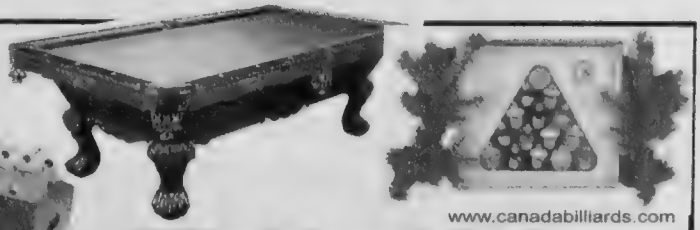

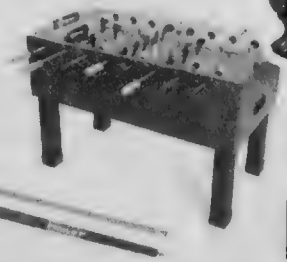

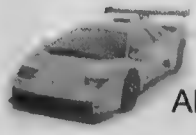

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Highlands Summer Festival 2010

Highlands Summer Festival is back next year for its eleventh season and they will be showcasing some of the Highlands best talent. Previous talent who has performed in recent years have gone on to the lights of L.A such as Kate Campbell who recently came home to Haliburton to perform. Tickets are now on sale for a season pass which saves you 20 per cent off regular ticket prices. The pass includes four of the Highland Summer Festival productions which can be extended to include further productions and Highlands Opera performances for just $20 per ticket.

Sylvia a musical by AR Gurney will be one of the festivals shows. A comedy that involves a blonde pooch; Slyvia and the frustrations and jealousies encountered by his human partner Kate. To Kate, Sylvia becomes a rival for affection. The marriage is put in serious jeopardy until after a series of priceless and touching complications Greg and Kate learn to compromise and Sylvia becomes a valued part of their lives. This hilarious romantic triangle is for anyone who has ever owned a dog, loved a dog and even those who don't believe that a dog is man's best friend.

Another musical will feature, The Goodbye Girl which is based on Neil Simon's well-known film about an unlikely romance between an egotistical actor, Elliot who sublets a friend's Manhattan apartment and his friend's ex-girlfriend, Paula, a former dancer and her precocious pre-teen daughter, Lucy, who still live there. This Tony Award Winning Musical features the same unique humour that has made Neil Simon the most popular playwright in Broadway history. Add a score by Marvin Hamlisch, composer of A Chorus Line, and you have an instant contemporary classic!

Highlands Summer Festival actor and musician Tom Regina will bring to the stage next summer an enchanting and upbeat concert featuring a woodwind quintet. With the creative genius of composers such as Ravel, Grieg, Piazzolla, Scott Joplin and others at his command and colleagues from the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra, Tom will lead a musical journey from classical to contemporary jazz. It's an evening sure to delight all musical tastes.

The Highlands Opera performances include La Boheme an intricate story which tells the journey of the love affair between seamstress Mimi and poet Rodolfo. Life is tough for these young artists and their friends as they try to eke out a living. While attempting a reconciliation, they discover that Mimi is ill. The Highlands Opera Studio presentation of the world famous La Bohème includes participants in the Opera Studio program in principal roles and a chorus drawn from the Highlands community. Other opera performances are picks from the studios favourite best loved operas of the world.

The passes would make for an ideal Christmas present for a musical family member or friend; this price is only valid until January 15th so buy them while you can to save money. You can purchase the season passes at The Organic Times in Minden and Kitchens Etc. in Haliburton or you can call their box office at 457-9933.

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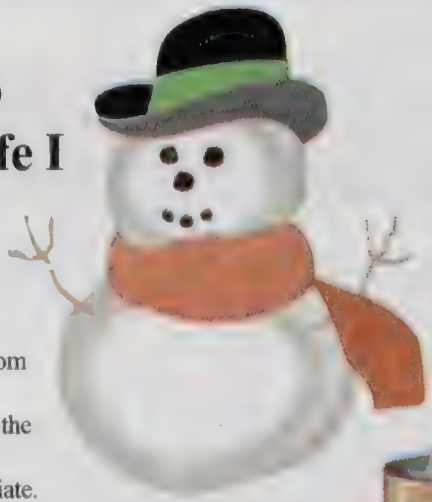

It's okay if you're a little bottom heavy.
Hold your ground, even when the heat is on.
Wearing white is always appropriate.
Winter is the best of the four seasons.
It takes a few extra rolls to make a good midsection.
There's nothing better than a foul weather friend.
The key to life is to be a jolly, happy soul.
It's not the size of the carrot, but the placement that counts.
We're all made up of mostly water.
You know you've made it when they write a song about you.
Accessorize! Accessorize! Accessorize!
Avoid yellow snow. Don't get too much sun.
It's embarrassing when you can't look down and see your feet.
It's fun to hang out in your front yard.
Always put your best foot forward.
There's no stopping you once you're on a roll.

Don't Forget The Batteries

As you shop for family and friends this holiday season, don't forget that many of this year's hottest gifts are battery-powered. Whether it's a PDA, a portable MP3 jukebox or a talking toy cash register, be sure to power this holiday's must-have gifts with a brand of battery you can trust.

Don't forget to stuff battery-operated toys with batteries before you wrap them, so you can instantly capture children's excitement on camera as they tear open the presents and immediately begin to play. Also, ensure you have an ample supply of premium-quality batteries on hand for long-lasting, reliable power in the presents they'll play with again and again.

Handling Grief At The Holidays

Each year, millions of people are faced with the prospect of a holiday period that is heavy with sadness rather than joy.

Walking by a brightly decorated house, hearing a carol, or planning for a family dinner, can be painful reminders of loss. For many, the holidays are a joyous period marked by festive celebrations, a time to look ahead with excitement to the coming new year, but for others, they may be grieving a death, and still others may be anticipating the death of a loved one, knowing the holidays are approaching. Everything around them encourages them to have a 'happy' holiday - not always an easy accomplishment for those dealing with grief and loss.

There are a few things you can do to ease the stress of the holidays, and as well, we give you some hints on how to help those grieving during this time.

Pare down your "to do" list. Take care of yourself at this busy, stressful time. This may mean taking a break from the normal bustle of the season. Recognize that a slower pace may be better for your mental and emotional well-being.

The absence of your loved one may become especially evident and painful as you participate in holiday activities such as decorating your home or gathering for family photos. Consider adding new traditions that commemorate your loved one. For example, visit the gravesite, or light a candle and ask family members to share stories or a moment of silence in his or her memory.

Seek help. Rely on family and friends for support. Many cemeteries and funeral homes offer bereavement resources and can refer you to support groups.

The holidays can be a stressful time. For those who have suffered a loss, it is important to set realistic expectations and find meaningful ways to remember the deceased.

Our love and wishes for a joyful holiday goes out to all who have lost someone dear this year or in previous years – or for those who are dealing with pending loss. Remember, they would want us to be happy this holiday season – let them see you smile.

There are many ways families can memorialize someone: Recognize that holiday traditions might not be the same. Expecting everything to be the same might lead to disappointment. Consider doing things a bit differently, which will allow you to acknowledge the change in your life while preserving your connection to the past.

Create a memory tree. Everyone can bring an ornament made in the persons memory to decorate the tree.

Set a special place at the dinner table and have everyone write a letter and place it on the persons plate.

Make a memorial donation to a favorite charity. In memory of the loved one, work at a soup kitchen with your family and order pizza for your own dinner. Adopt a family for Christmas.

If you live within driving distance of the cemetery, decorate the memorial site with a holiday theme. This could include flowers, garlands, ribbons, bows, evergreen-branches, packages, pinecones or a miniature Christmas tree. Decorating the site yourself can be helpful in remembering and celebrating your loved one's life during the holidays, and may free you to cherish the present holiday with your remaining family.

Shakespeare once said, "Give sorrow words…" Write an "un-sent letter" to your loved one. expressing what you are honestly feeling toward him or her at this moment. After you compose the letter, you may decide to place it in a book, album or drawer in your home, leave it at a memorial site, throw it away, or even burn it and let the ashes rise symbolically.

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A MISSION OF LOVE 5

A Free Delicious
Traditional Turkey Dinner
for anyone on
Christmas Day

Time: 5:00 pm

Please call to register by Dec. 16th

Lakeside Baptist Church @ 457-2851
Steve + Stephanie Smith @ 457-3394
or Sue Bain @ 457-2570

Lakeside Baptist Church
9 Park Street
Haliburton, ON
457-2851

Go Green Tip: Here's a little-practiced fact in the life of today's fashion: Many clothing items can be repaired. Do it right away, though, so the item can go back into the usable clothing circulation. The longer it sits, the greater the odds of it being replaced instead, making the original, repairable item just another piece of clutter.

"Use the clothes-detergent cap (to measure detergent), then wash it in the very same load. The cap will stay nice and clean -- no liquid soap everywhere." – Mrs. B., via e-mail

"If you have a noisy bed after you purchased a new mattress and box springs (it never was noisy before), it might be your bed rails. Cover them with carpet. We nailed ours on all over, which was easy, and the noise stopped. Our box spring apparently was not made very well at the bottom. This really works." – C.F. in Indiana

If you receive a set of scented soaps for the holidays, you can get a longer use out of them as drawer scents before you use them as soap. Tuck each one into a cloth wrapper and stick it in a drawer. When the scent starts to wear out, use the soap.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 or e-mail JoAnn at heresatip@yahoo.com.

Blue Sky Yoga Supports Food For Kids Program

If you need to relax, or get some exercise this Christmas - you can get it while helping support the Haliburton County Food for Kids Program. Special classes are being offered at Blue Sky Yoga Studio during the weeks of Dec 14 – Dec 31. Everyone is invited to come and try a class and we are collecting donations (financial please) for the Food For Kids Program. Prizes will be given during each class, and 1 big prize will be awarded at the end of the classes. If you are new to pilates, yoga, qigong, zumba or meditation this is a great way to come and try a class. The Food for Kids Program provides breakfast and snack foods for kids in Haliburton County. For more information call Lynda Shadbolt at 457-3121 or check out www.haliburtonyoga.com

Schedule of classes:

Christmas Eve Yoga with Lynda Shadbolt –
Thursday Dec 24 (9:30 am – 11:00 am)

Christmas Eve Meditation with Lynda Shadbolt –
Thursday Dec 24 (11:15 am – 12:15 pm)

New Years Eve Yoga with Lynda Shadbolt –
Thursday Dec 31 (9:30 am – 11:00 am)

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Health Unit Warns Party Hosts to be Extra Vigilant This Party Season

As the party season gets underway the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is warning local residents of the legalities they could find themselves in if something goes wrong at a party they intend to host. They can be sued if alcohol is provided and something goes wrong. Furthermore even if a host doesn't provide alcohol they could still be legally responsible if any alcohol-related injuries occur on their property.

Stephanie Ratz, a health promoter with the HKPR District Health unit says that "it is very important as a party host to take precautions to ensure the safety of guests while at your home or on your property." Based upon 2006 statistics the Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization estimates that each day in Canada three to four people are killed and another 207 individuals are injured in crashes involving impaired driving. Furthermore MADD indicates that the number of alcohol-related civil lawsuits has risen significantly in recent years. Stephanie adds though that "being party smart does not mean being a party pooper." Before planning a party you should consider the following:

Limit your drinking or don't drink at all. Serve snacks to guests because eating helps to slow down the absorption of alcohol. Stop serving alcohol a few hours before the party is over. Serve drinks to your guests yourself, do not provide a self-serve bar. Offer low-alcohol and alcohol free cocktails and soft drinks. Find out how your guests are getting home. Have a plan for guests who can't drive home. Know your designated rivers and ensure they are sober. Keep cash and phone number ready for taxis. Be prepared for overnight guests. Don't make alcohol the focus of the party. Plan a few fun activities. For more tips on safe party hosting call the Health Unit toll free at 1-866-888-4577.

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E-mail: healthworks@bellnet.ca

Stress Busters
Quick Tips To Lower That Stress Level

Torso Rotation

Standing with your feet shoulder-width apart and hands on hips, rotate your torso as far to the right as you can and hole the position for 10 seconds. Breathe slowly in and out while holding this position. Return your torso to face front, then rotate, it to the left and hold for 10 seconds. Repeat both sides five times. Notice how much looser your upper body feels after this exercise.

Yuletide Greetings
May the beauty of the holidays shine throughout the season for you and yours.
Merry Christmas!
from everyone at
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HAIRSTYLING
286-2585

Merry Christmas
Thank you to all our friends and clients for your support in 2009. Happy New Year!
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WHITE TRAIL By Marcy Mandel

GOODNESS AND MERCY

As the family tree gains more branches, the holiday season seems to lengthen to accommodate all the travelling. This year we started early in December to visit our son and his family in Maryland. What should have been an easy time, since we were flying and not doing the eleven hour drive, turned into something quite eventful. On the way down, out of the blue Alan asked me when my passport expired. I was quite surprised and terrified to realize that it was a year ago. "Not to worry," I replied, "one way or another we'll make it." Good things happen to good people.

And so we drove to the airport where I was immediately turned away. I was quite surprised because looking back, I had travelled numerous times with the same lapsed passport. I guess the crackdown in the spring was now in full effect and there were no longer any discretionary calls. The attendant suggested I go to the passport office and try to get an extension like a previous customer had done. In the parking lot, my husband lost patience with a driver and I reminded him, if we wanted goodness and mercy to happen to us, we had to give it to others. He recognized I was right and calmed down. In the passport office we were greeted by a friendly security guard and sent to a wonderful young man who told us extensions were no longer available. The next option was to take a picture and reapply. After a few more harrowing obstacles and many, many hours, we were on the plane headed south. Good things happen to good people.

In Maryland, there was so much kindness and generosity in the air we were all rewarded by waking up to a miraculous white Christmas. That night, after a day filled with such joy, I turned to my husband and told him if I'd died right then, I'd die a happy person. He understood.

I think all religions have some version of Karma or the Golden Rule. It seems to be a universal truth: you get what you give. I don't think there is a God keeping track of what we do, judging us to be worthy of this or that, but rather a vibration of love we give off that connects us to a web of like-hearted folk. Greedy, childish people who can often be heard saying 'I want' never seem to have any luck, while those who lend a hand even when it's inconvenient find their driveways plowed on return from more travels to a family funeral. Good things happen to good people.

It's very difficult to give up the ego, to give up thinking we are alone in the world and have to look out for our own best interests. We are bombarded with that message all the time from advertisers and even some religious and political leaders. It's like there are parallel universes here on earth, the hell of those who are anxious and needy, and the heaven of those who are at peace with whatever their circumstances may be. The funny thing is these two worlds have nothing to do with one's physical reality, what health or wealth one has or doesn't have, but rather with what one is a part of: a family, a community, the universe. When we feel a part of something, are interdependent, we know our needs will be taken care of.

On the flight south, I began thinking of the words 'goodness and mercy'. They seemed familiar but I couldn't place them – may goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life? It wasn't until we were at a funeral a few days later where Psalm 23 was a chosen reading that my answer came. When I change a few words, it had even more resonance for me.

Love is my shepherd; I shall not want.
It maketh me to lie down in green pastures; It leadeth me beside still waters.
It restoreth my soul; It guideth me in straight paths for its sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Love is with me; Its rod and its staff, they comfort me.
It preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
It hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of Love for ever.

Wishing you all a season of goodness and mercy, where ever the branches of your family tree may lead you.

Marci Mandel

Comments: whitetraillanding@gmail.com

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Taoist Tai Chi Society™ Celebrating 40 Years

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- Improving balance
- Greater flexibility
- Exploring the mind-body connection

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The International Taoist Tai Chi Society -- which started in Toronto 40 years ago this year -- has spread from its Ontario base around the world, with more than 40,000 members in 25 countries. The Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada is a registered charity and all its fully-accredited instructors are volunteers whose interest is in helping others.

BEGINNER CLASSES - OPEN HOUSES

Please drop in during these times

Haliburton, United Church
Thursday, Jan 7 at 9.30-11.00 *and* Saturday, Jan 16 at 9.30-11.30 a.m.
Minden, Hyland Crest
Tuesday, Jan 12 at 9.30-11.00 a.m. *and* Thursday, Jan 14 at 7.00-8.30 p.m.
Wilberforce, Lloyd Watson Centre
Wednesday, Jan 13 at 1.00-2.30 p.m. *and* Thursday, Jan 14 at 6.30-8.00 p.m.
For times of other classes, or for any other information, call Brenda at 447-2148

www.taoist.org

It's Happening in Kinmount!

by Lynne Kilby

Along with a variety of Kinmount memorabilia, complete sets of the Kinmount Gazette are now available for purchase at Kinmount Artisans Marketplace and Gateway Variety. These historical collector sets contain 16 issues, which will maintain their relevance through time and provide a unique read for that particularly hard to buy for person. As of Dec.14 Kinmount Artisans Marketplace will be open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until Christmas Eve. Shop tax-free for the month of December.

As 2009 draws to an end, so too does Kinmount's 150th Anniversary Year. The community is invited to rejoice in festive fellowship at the Closing Anniversary Ceremony & Time Capsule Dedication Sunday Dec. 27, 1:00 p.m. at Kinmount Community Centre. Enjoy a complimentary lunch, a slide show featuring highlights of Kinmount's sesquicentennial year, presentations, entertainment, free draws for Kinmount memorabilia and of course witness the sealing of the Kinmount Time Capsule, which will be opened in 50 years on Kinmount's bi-centennial birthday.

During the holidays, the natural ice at Kinmount Arena is usually ready and free public skating is offered on a daily basis. To enquire about ice conditions for public skating or ice rental call 488-3293. Registration for Kinmount Knights Minor Hockey is still taking place. Sign up at Kinmount Freshmart or call Dave or Pam at 488-2237.

I hope to see you around town through the holiday season but if by chance our paths do not cross, I extend to you now my warmest wishes for a wonderful festive season and prosperous New Year. Please call me at (705) 488-2919 or e-mail me at lynne.kilby@sympatico.ca to share news or advertise an event or activity and remember to keep visiting kinmount.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec.27 Kinmount 150th Anniversary Closing Ceremony & Time Capsule Dedication, Complimentary Lunch 1:00 p.m., Dedication 2:00 p.m. at Kinmount Community Centre.

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Dance, with DJ Tom Williamson, buffet dinner & spot prizes, 9:00 p.m. at Kinmount Legion. For advance tickets call 488-3462.

THANK YOU

to all our wonderful clients & friends for your support this year. May you all have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

FREE CHRISTMAS TREES

for anyone who would like to come out to Dunloe Farm on a family outing and cut one down!

Lady Esther Day Spa & B&B and Dunloe Farm

705-754-3034 www.ladyesther.ca

Haliburton Highlands Knitters Group

If you are interested in joining a ladies group to socialize and take part in a fun hobby then pop down to Haliburton United Church on the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August) from 10.30-2pm.

The knitting group was founded in the 1980s by Mimi Carson who along with her husband Ted raised sheep on their farm in the Lochlin area and did spinning and weaving. The group has now grown to 30 people and they often knit for many organizations and charities. Diana McCullough, the group leader said that "we have knitted 300 sweaters to send to Afganistan for the Doctors without Borders group. We've sent 300 articles including mittens and hats to the 4C's, Minden and Carnarvon food banks along with knitting for the pregnancy centre in Haliburton."

The ladies in the group knit what they want to and becoming a member of the group is a great way to meet new people and also get advice with a particularly tricky pattern or troublesome garment. There is no fee to join the group although some members do donate an honorium for the church. If you are unable to join the group the ladies do welcome donated articles. Call Diana McCullough at 286-4609 for more information.

A time to love.
A time to share.
A time for peace.
A time to care.

May Christmas fill your family with the glory of the season

May you all experience the true spirit of Christmas this year!
Best wishes for the New Year.

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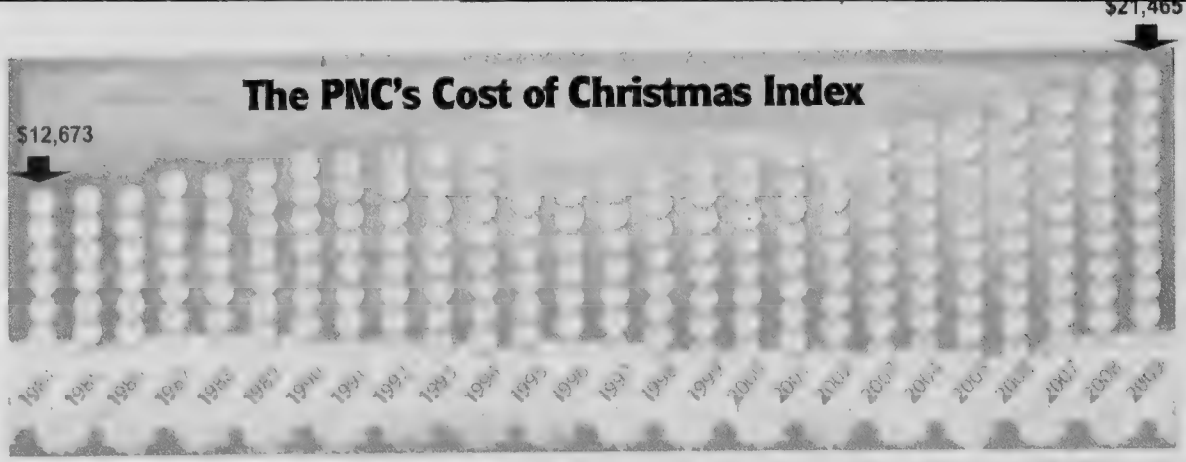
What is the PNC's Index...



This chart is what it would cost to purchase each item just once. The total to purchase all items as in the song is $87,402.81

It all started one Christmas season 26 years ago, when PNC's chief economist had an idea... "Let's see how much it would cost to buy each of the gifts in the holiday carol the 12 Days of Christmas.

Each year they track how gift prices change. They call it the Christmas Price Index. They add up the prices of all 78 gifts in the song to the the Total Cost of Christmas.

The Christmas Price Index is similar to the Consumer Price Index, which measures changes in the prices of goods and services like housing, food, clothing, and more that reflect the spending habits of the average american.

In all, it's a fun way to measure consumer spending and trends in the economy. Even if pipers piping or geese a-laying didn't make your gift list, it's fun to see how their prices have gone up and down over the years.

The total cost to buy all of the items named in "The 12 Days of Christmas" song increased by just 0.9% this year to $87,402.81, said PNC Financial Services Group.

The index got the biggest boost from a surge in the price of gold, which is at a record high near $1,200. That sent the cost of five golden rings up 43% this year.

Declines in bird prices were the main drag, with partridge prices falling by half, and the price of geese down more than a third from last year.

French hens, however, bucked the trend. Prices for the imported poultry jumped 50% to $45 for three.

With the nation's jobless rate above 10%, many of the index's labor related components stagnated. The cost for 10 lords-a-leaping, 11 pipers piping and 12 drummers drumming were all unchanged from last year.

And "The 12 Days of Christmas" aren't any cheaper for online shoppers. The cost to buy all 79 items mentioned in one verse of the song from online retailers came to $31,434.85. That's about $10,000 more than the $21,465.56 it would cost to buy all of the items off line.

"In general, Internet prices are higher than their non-Internet counterparts because of shipping costs for birds," Dunigan said.

A heartfelt thank you to all our clients for their patronage this past year.

Our office will be closed from Wed. Dec. 23, 2009 to Mon. Jan. 4, 2010 (inclusive).

Wishing Everone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Ray, Marilyn, Laurie, Sharon & Glenda

LAW OFFICE

Raymond Selbie & Staff

What, exactly, are the 12 days of Christmas?

The 12 days of Christmas are the 12 days that separate Christmas day on December 25 from Epiphany, which is celebrated January 6. Depending on the church, January 6 may mark Christ's baptism (the Catholic tradition), or it may mark the day that the wise men visited the baby Jesus with their gifts.

In the past, there was a tradition of giving gifts throughout the 12 days, rather than stacking them all up on the morning of December 25. That tradition, as you might imagine, has never really caught on in America! We just aren't that patient. The song, however, demonstrates that some people once stretched out their gifts (and gave some fairly elaborate gifts...) over the full 12 days.

Merry Christmas

Best Wishes for a Healthy & Prosperous 2010

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Who is this reindeer named Rudolf?

Rudolph's story begins sometime in 1939. The nation was still in the midst of the Great Depression but that didn't prevent people from celebrating and enjoying the good times of life. Times may have been difficult but that just meant that people had to be more careful with their money.

In the Chicago headquarters of department store giant, Montgomery Ward, that summer, executives were making plans for the coming Christmas season.

To attract customers the stores put up lavish decorations and, in their toy departments, they would create elaborate Christmas kingdom displays with Santa Claus enthroned in the middle. The highlight of the Christmas shopping season for children was a trip downtown with Mom and Dad to visit Santa Claus. After a brief visit with the jolly one, Santa would reach into the big sack next to his chair and, reminding them to be good, give them a little parting gift.

For many years Montgomery Ward had filled their Santa's sack with a Christmas coloring book that they had specially printed each year. But this year the Montgomery Ward executives wanted something new and different. They also wanted to save money. So, instead of calling upon an outside firm to create the new item, as they had done in the past, they decided to have their own advertising department create the new giveaway.

Thus it happened that Robert L. May, a 34 year-old copywriter for Montgomery Ward, found himself charged with coming up with a new gift for their Santa to give to the little children. May went to work developing a Christmas story for children. As a child, May had always been small for his age and this had brought forth taunts and ridicule from the other children. Drawing upon his experiences of being somewhat different and an outcast, May set about creating a character with similar problems who, in the end, rises above his problems and is transformed.

The year 1939 was a difficult time in the life of Robert May. In addition to the worries of losing his job in the Depression that had engulfed the economy, his wife lay dying of cancer. Despite his own worries and grief, May had to be stoic and, setting his own grief aside, help his four year old daughter, Barbara deal with the trauma of seeing her Mother die. However, little Barbara, in her own way helped her Dad with the creation of Rudolph. Robert worked on the project in the office and then came home and tested out themes and story lines on Barbara. Work and home life converged in a way that both allowed father and daughter to come closer together as well as providing a diversion from the troubles that surrounded them. Some even credit Barbara with the naming of Rudolph, claiming that May tested different names on Barbara and Rudolph was the one that she enjoyed the most.

Robert May's creation was not the Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer song that everyone now knows so well and it was not the popular cartoon that is now shown on TV each Christmas. No, May's creation was a short story written in rhyming verse. It was the story of a little reindeer who was different due to a physical deformity – a bright red nose. Unlike the Rudolph we now know from the song and cartoon, May's original Rudolph lived an ordinary life with his parents in the woods. He did not live at the North Pole and his parents were not part of Santa's reindeer team. Oh, Rudolph had to deal with the taunts of the other little reindeer who shunned him because he was different. Like May as a child, Rudolph was lonely and had few friends. But, rather than dwelling on his problems, Rudolph had a positive outlook on life and did not let his deformity hold him back.

In the original story, Rudolph's big moment came when Santa landed his sleigh at Rudolph's home to deliver gifts to him and the other good little reindeer in the neighborhood. As Santa landed a fog started to roll in. By the time Santa had finished delivering presents to the little reindeer in the area, the fog had become dense, making it impossible for Santa to take off safely. With children all over the world expecting him to visit and leave presents, Santa had a dilemma – he couldn't see to take off in the fog but if he did not take off he would disappoint children all over the world. At that moment Santa noticed Rudolph with his shiny red nose and asked him to lead his sleigh. Rudolph agreed and Santa was able to make his deliveries. Following Santa's successful Christmas Eve journey with Rudolph in the lead, the story ends with Santa saying to Rudolph, "By YOU last night's journey was actually bossed. Without you, I'm certain we'd all have been lost!" This is a little different from the song and cartoon which end with the other reindeer praising Rudolph by saying he will go down in history.

The booklet given out by the Montgomery Ward Santa was an immediate hit with children and their parents with Montgomery Ward distributing 2.4 million copies the first year. The popularity of the story continued in the years immediately following 1939 but, because of war time paper shortages, Montgomery Ward was only able to produce and distribute 6 million copies between 1939 and 1946. Because the booklets were simple giveaways for children printed on newspaper stock very few of those original 6 million booklets produced by Montgomery Ward survive to this day.

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Gordon A. Monk Award for Molly McInerney

The 2009 Gordon A. Monk Award for Volunteerism and Citizenship was presented to Molly McInerney at the annual Township of Minden Hills Volunteer Recognition and Christmas Banquet. The award was created in 2008 by the Township in recognition of Gord Monk's achievements as well as the value he placed on volunteerism and citizen participation.

Ms. McInerney volunteers on many committees. She is a member of the Minden Rotary Club, and along with Rotary events helps out at the Santa Claus Parade, Family Fun Night, Lighting of the Christmas Tree and many other events. She is also on Minden's Sesquicentennial Committee, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, and is working towards establishing the Minden Community Business Association. This past year, she led or helped organize events such as the classic car show' n shine in Minden, the Float your Hull down the Gull, the Junk in your Trunk event and many others. Molly was at every event, if not the one organizing it, she was helping out.

The 2008 recipient was Linda Brandon, recognized for her many years of service in the community. The award is intended to be presented on an annual basis, and consists of a plaque for the recipient as well as recognition on a master plaque kept on display at the Township Office. Nominees for this award should have demonstrated extensive volunteerism over an extended period of time in multiple areas of service to our community.

Minden Hills New Years Eve Celebration

Get down to the Minden community centre on New Years Eve to dance the night away and celebrate the start of a brand new year. Local band The Rabid Dogs will be performing, tickets include party hats and noise makers along with roast beef on a bun. Doors open at 8.30pm. Admission is $20 however if you have purchased a 'Spoil me Lottery Ticket' you can save yourself $10. The Elimination draw for a trip for two to Germany starts at 11pm so if you have purchased a spoil me ticket you will be entered into the draw.
You can buy tickets from the Minden township office, the Dominion hotel, Haliburton County Tourism office, Organic Times in Minden or at the community centre itself. Call Tammy at 286-1936 ext 200 for more information.

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas ?
It's Christmas, Eve !

Turkey Facts:...

Did You Know…

The turkey is a variety of pheasant.
Fossil evidence indicates that turkeys roamed North America as long as 10 million years ago.
Archeological evidence indicates that turkeys were confined, if not domesticated by Native Americans as long as 2,000 years ago.
Turkeys have an estimated 3,500 feathers at maturity.
Wild turkeys can fly short distances at speeds up to 90 km/hr and can run at speeds up to 40 km/hr.
Canada has the 6th highest turkey production levels in the world.
The average Canadian eats turkey 15.5 times a year, or just over once a month.
Turkeys are fed nutritionally balanced diets of grain, corn or soybean for healthy growth and development.
Columbus thought that the turkey was a type of peacock. People in Sri Lanka call peacocks "tuka" (which really sounds like turkey). Columbus thought he was in a land connected to India when he arrived in America and some think that he may be the source of the name for turkey.
The Guinness Book of Records states that the largest dressed weight (cooked, with dressing) recorded for a turkey is 39.09 kg (86 lbs) on December 12, 1989.
Before modern transportation methods, farmers in the British Isles would put leather shoes on their turkeys and walk them into town.
Most turkeys raised commercially are White Holland's which have all white plumage. The Bronze turkey was the chief turkey raised in Canada until the mid '60s.
Some people think they feel sleepy after a roast turkey dinner. Turkey contains many of our essential dietary amino acids. One is called L-Tryptophan. One of the first amino acids to appear as a supplement in the early marketing wave of exotic nutrients, it was billed as a natural sleep aid. It is involved in the production of serotonin, a neurotransmitter. Serotonin may reduce certain pain reactions and have a tranquilizing effect. Starchy foods such as potatoes and stuffing are high in carbohydrates, which contain L-Tryptophan.

Christmas Tree Facts:...

Did You Know?

Canada was first introduced to the Christmas tree in 1781 in Sorel, Quebec, by a German immigrant, Baron Friederick von Riedesel. The Baron's tree was a balsam fir cut from the dense forest of Quebec and was decorated with myriads of white candles.

In 1979, the National Christmas Tree was not lighted except for the top ornament. This was done in honour of the American hostages in Iran.

The first decorated Christmas was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.

Growing Christmas trees provides a habitat for wildlife.

Recycled trees have been used to make sand and soil erosion barriers and been placed in ponds for fish shelter.

Christmas trees take 7-10 years to mature.

Trees also act as air pollution filters and can remove up to 13 tons of airborne pollutants per acre per year.

The use of evergreen trees to celebrate the winter season occurred before the birth of Christ.

100,000 people are employed in the Christmas tree industry.

98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms.

73 million new Christmas trees will be planted this year.

More than 330,000 real Christmas trees are sold via e-commerce or catalogs.

In 2000 31 percent of north American household had a real tree, 49 percent had a fake tree and 21 percent had no tree.

You should never burn your Christmas tree in the fireplace. It can contribute to creosote build-up.

Artificial trees will last for six years in your home, but for centuries in a landfill.

Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882.

Christmas tree lights were first mass-produced in 1890.

In the first week, a tree in your home will consume as much as a quart of water per day.

A Christmas tree decoration was banned by the government. Tinsel contained lead at one time, now it's made of plastic.

Real Christmas trees are involved in less than one-tenth of one percent of residential fires and only when ignited by some external ignition sources.

2-3 seedlings are planted for every harvested Christmas tree.

59 percent of real Christmas trees harvested are recycled in community programs.

An acre of Christmas trees provides for the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people.

In 1900, large stores started to erect big illuminated Christmas trees.

The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.

The top selling Christmas trees are Balsam fir, Douglas fir; Fraser fir, Noble fir, Scotch pine and White pine.

May All Creatures Great & Small, Everywhere in The Land Experience The True Magic & Spirit of Christmas Throughout The Year!

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The 'Smart' Fishermen

Three fishermen are sitting by the side of a river holding fishing poles with the lines in the water.

A Game Warden comes up behind them, taps them on the shoulder and says, "Excuse me, I'd like to see your fishing licenses."

"We don't have any," replied the first fisherman.

"Well, if you're going to fish, you need fishing licenses," said the Game Warden.

"But officer," replied the second fisherman, "we aren't fishing. We all have magnets at the end of our lines and we're collecting debris off the bottom of the river."

The Game Warden lifted up all the lines and, sure enough, there were horseshoe magnets tied on the end of each line.

"Well, I know of no law against it," said the Game Warden, "take all the debris you want."

And with that, the Game Warden left.

As soon as the Game Warden was out of sight, the three fishermen started laughing hysterically. "What a dumb Fish Cop," the first fisherman, said to the other two. "Doesn't he know that there are Steelhead trout in this river?!"

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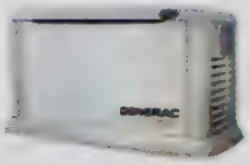
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Scientifically Speaking
What When Where Why How

Why do roosters crow in the morning?

Long ago when chickens were wild, roosters crowed so loudly to attract a mate that they were in danger of being pounced on by a predator looking for a chicken dinner. To avoid being seen, they began to do most of their crowing when the light was dim in the early morning and late afternoon. Today's equally loud-mouthed roosters still crow most at those two times. But early in the morning you notice them more because there's usually not a lot of other noises going on then to distract you.

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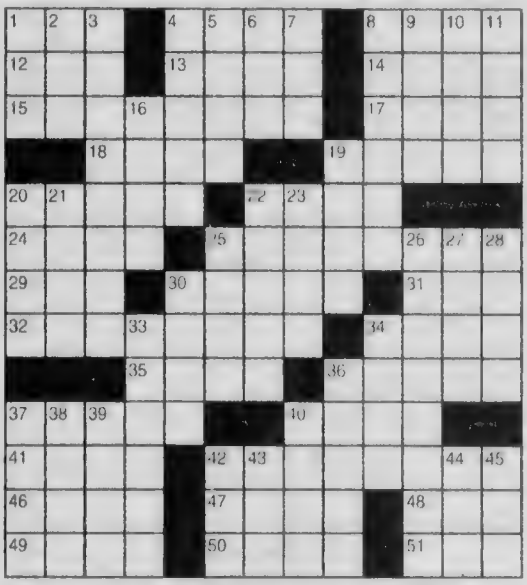
King Crossword

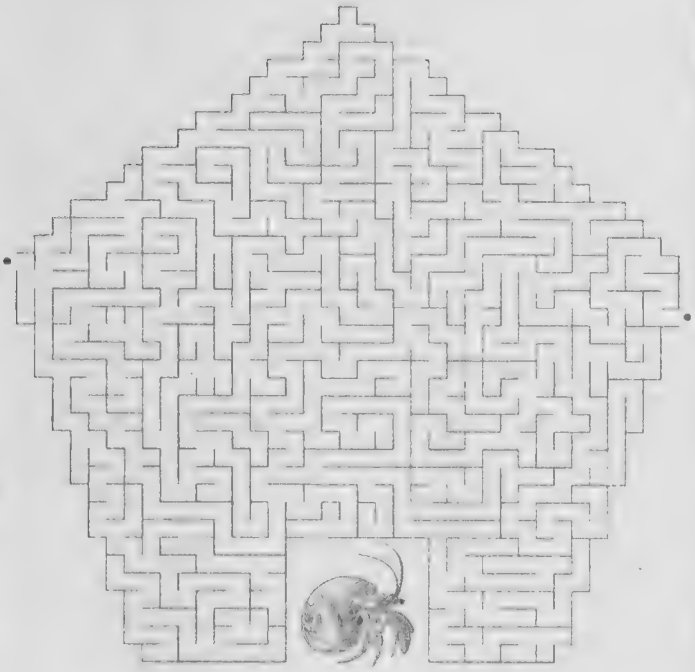


ACROSS

1 Use a ray gun
4 Impale
8 Puppy's attacks
12 Lemieux milieu
13 Harvard rival
14 Redact
15 Mrs. Odysseus
17 Gaucho's weapon
18 Bugle call
19 Big man on campus?
20 Ire
22 Old phone feature
24 Swine
25 1930 Harold Arlen song
29 Equi-
30 Automaton
31 Historic time
32 It merged with Tanganyika in 1964
34 Winter forecast
35 Hideaway
36 Abacus bits
37 Yuletide refrain
40 Aim
41 Booty
42 Aquatic birds
46 Jealousy
47 Type of race
48 Menagerie
49 Lawyers' salaries
50 Bohemian
51 Recede

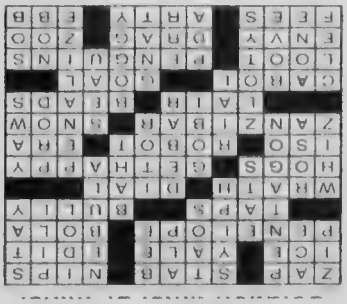
DOWN

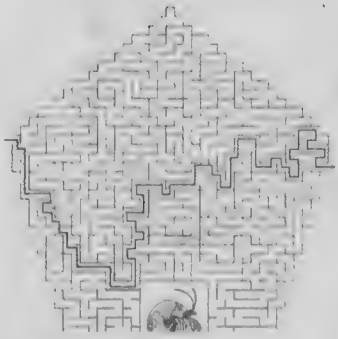
1 Energy
2 Expert
3 Big brass container?
4 Graceful girl
5 New Mexico art colony
6 Matterhorn, for one
7 Spell-down
8 Outer-space cloud
9 "American —"
10 Dosage, maybe
11 Go nowhere
16 Diner sign
19 Thai money
20 Genius
21 Parks or Bonheur
22 Exclude
23 "Believe — not"
25 Asian desert
26 Fine, maybe
27 Cattleman's tool
28 Goes off course
30 100 dinars
33 Polish silver?
34 Junior of the NFL
36 Marshlike
37 Staff leader
38 Top-rated
39 Wander
40 Summertime pest
42 Handheld organizer
43 Blunder
44 San Francisco's — Hill
45 Weep loudly



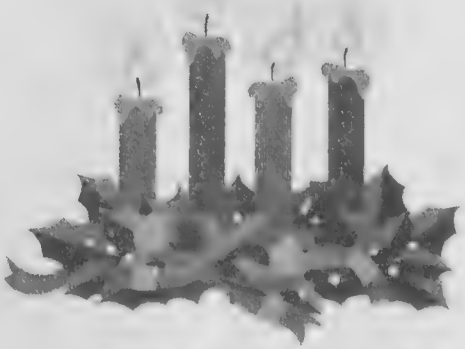
How does Santa Claus take pictures?
With a North Pole-aroid camera.

Puzzle Answers





At Christmas Time...



may peace fill your home,
may joy fill your heart
and may the spirit
of the season stay with you
throughout the year!

Happy Holidays from all of us

Dan - Kelly - Monika - Maureen - Kellee
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Season's Greetings

In less than 2 weeks we will be bringing in a new year. 2010 is already around the corner. Where has the time gone? This year flew by as I helped home owners obtain their dream home, helped clients with financial advice that is best suited to their unique situations and finally by writing my articles on a regular basis.

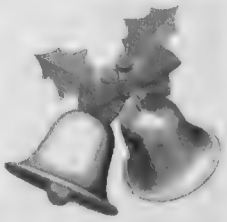
It's starting to look like Christmas with the beautiful white snow covering the ground like a blanket. Are you ready for it?

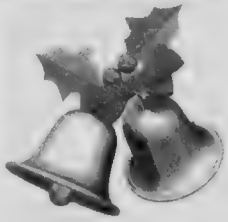
Well, this week, instead of writing an article about financial investments, mortgages…etc. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all my readers and wish them a safe and happy holiday season and look for me next year. (I welcome any suggestions for articles. You can email me at susan@susanleecfp.com or call my office at 705-457-3207 I would love to talk to you).

For my clients, I also want to wish you a safe and happy holiday season. I couldn't have made it without you. You have made this year successful for me and I want to thank you for that and look forward to talking with each and everyone of you in the new year.

To my readers and clients, thank you for believing in me.

Stay safe!





Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noel, Feliz Navidad, Bunone Feste Natalizie.

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It's the Law

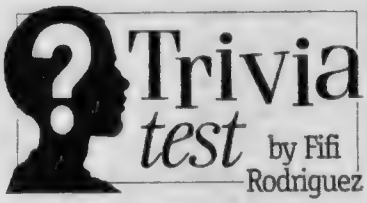
It's the Law

In Kansas, It's against the law to stack more than eight dishes!

At one time in South Foster, Rhode Island, if a dentist extracted the wrong tooth from a patient, he was ordered by law to have one of his own teeth extracted by the local blacksmith!

An old law in Saudi Arabia stated that if a man did not keep his wife well supplied with coffee, she could legally divorce him!

In ancient Greece, it was against the law for a person to be idle.



TRIVIA TEST
By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: In what country is Stonehenge located?
2. BIBLE: What is the fifth book of the Pentateuch in the Old Testament?
3. ART: The artist Gustave Courbet was associated with which art movement in the 19th century?
4. ANATOMY: What causes a hiccup?
5. POLITICS: Plaid Cymru is the name of what group?
6. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Russia House"?
7. MUSIC: What rock group had a 1978 hit with the tune "Please Come Home for Christmas"?
8. MOVIES: What animated movie was promoted as "the greatest fairy tale never told"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When was the Lincoln Memorial dedicated?
10. SCIENCE: What is an astronomical unit?

Answers

1. California and Nevada
1. England
2. Deuteronomy
3. Realism
4. Involuntary contraction of the diaphragm
5. The Party of Wales
6. John Le Carré
7. Eagles
8. "Shrek"
9. 1922
10. The mean distance between Earth and

Learn A Word

Tempestuous

\tem-'pes-che-wes\adj: of, relating to, or resembling a tempest : turbulent, stormy

Sam and Rachel have always had a tempestuous relationship: fast friends one minute, snarling at each other the next.

Lange on the Law

Donald Lange

by Donald J. Lange
Barrister & Solicitor

Prowling at Night

The Criminal Code protects a rural resident in Haliburton by criminalizing the surreptitious invasion of that person's residential property at night in a manner when the intruder has no lawful excuse to explain his or her presence. The Criminal Code provides that "every one who, without lawful excuse, the proof of which lies on him, loiters or prowls at night on the property of another person near a dwelling-house situated on that property is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction." The following is a true story of prowling at night.

One winter's night, a mother was home alone with her four young children, whom she had just tucked into bed. Shortly after 9:00 p.m., she decided to go to the deck to gather the family laundry (now frozen on the line). As she started to go outside, she noticed something hunched over at the base of the deck. At first she thought it was a deer until she saw the shape move in a crouched position into the front corner of the yard where the house met the fence. Growing nervous, she asked, "Who's there?" No answer came. She asked again, more loudly, "Who's there?" A male voice answered, saying that he was "looking for something". The mother asked this time, "What are you looking for? What are you doing here? What do you mean you are looking for something?" The man stood up and quickly ran away. Needless to say, the mother was frightened. She called 911. The police arrived shortly thereafter. The man was found and arrested. Several days later, a pair of frozen underwear was discovered on the front bushes of a property three doors away. The mother testified that this underwear was with her other laundry when the man was hiding in her backyard.

There was a debate in the courts over whether there is a need to prove that the intruder intended to commit a separate and distinct criminal act to prove a charge of prowling. The Ontario Court of Appeal rejected that argument. It stated: "Instinctively, an occupant or other observer seeing a trespasser moving stealthily or furtively near a home at night, absent other explanation, would conclude that the trespasser's conduct evidences an intention to avoid detection - perhaps because the trespasser has committed, or is going to commit, or is contemplating committing, a reprehensible act. Whatever the prowler's motive, however, it is the act of prowling itself that is an unwarranted invasion that causes anxiety to the observer, and not any reprehensible act that the trespasser may intend to commit, may have committed, or is contemplating committing."

In the next column, I will be talking about defending your house and property.

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Contractors Corner

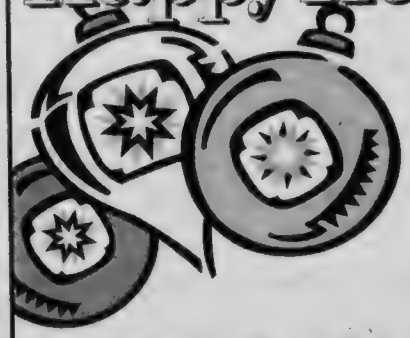
THE PIPE LINE

By Mark Evans

Let it snow ... Let it snow ... Let it snow....

The beauty is undeniable, yet if it was a green Christmas I'm sure I could still enjoy the Spirit of the season. I bet I would feel just as Christmassy cutting the grass with my elf hat on as I do shovelling the roof. There would be no need to clear the snow from the plumbing vent terminal while I was on the roof either because the toilets and sinks would drain just as good as they did in the summer with the full air flowing through the pipe. I could unroll the un-frozen hose, turn on the un-burst outside tap and sing "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" while watering the whole yard of snow-free grass instead of staring at that annoying little patch of green that stays there all winter because the heat from the septic tank melts away the winter white. It would be a refreshing change to have a year that didn't include shovelling snow away from the vent pipes that stick out the sides of the houses that use a high efficiency furnace or power vented water heater. If those vents get clogged those appliances go from high efficiency to no efficiency. I wouldn't want our climate to warm up too much though. Everybody is probably going to enjoy the Yuletide season more if it's cool enough in the evenings to keep the door to door carollers from making their rounds wearing just a thong. I just want it to be warm enough to be able to open a window in the laundry room when the clothes dryer or central vacuum system is running because they remove so much air from the house. I think I might miss the icy cold snow if it went away and stayed away but it's comforting to know that if that ever happens, they still make fake snow that comes in a can and I would just have to learn to live with that. Seasons greetings.

Happy Holidays



Hoping your holiday season is full of love and laughter. Our thanks and best wishes go out to all in the community.

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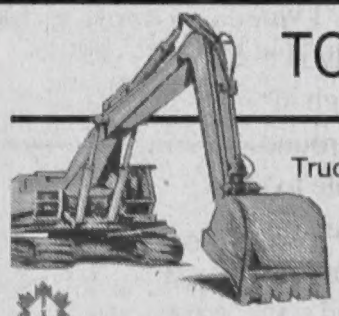

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The Perfect Couple

Once apon a time, a perfect man and a perfect woman met. After the perfect courtship, they had a perfect wedding. Their life together was, of course, perfect.

One snowy, stormy Christmas Eve, this perfect couple were driving their perfect car along a winding road, when they noticed someone at the side of the road in distress. Being the perfect couple, they stopped to help.

There stood Santa Clause with a huge bundle of toys. Not wanting to disappoint any children on Christmas Eve, the perfect couple loaded Santa and his toys into their vehicle. Soon they were driving along delivering the toys.

Unfortunately, driving conditions deteriorated and the perfect couple and Santa Clause had an accident. Only one of them survived the accident.

Who was the survivor?

Answer:

The perfect woman survived. She's the only one who really existed in the first place. Everyone knows there is no Santa Clause and there is no such thing as the perfect man.

****Women stop reading here, that is the end of the joke.
****Men keep reading...

So, if there is no perfect man and no Santa Clause, the perfect woman must have been driving. This explains why there was an accident in the first place.

By the way, if you're a woman and you're reading this, it only serves to illustrate another point: women never listen either.

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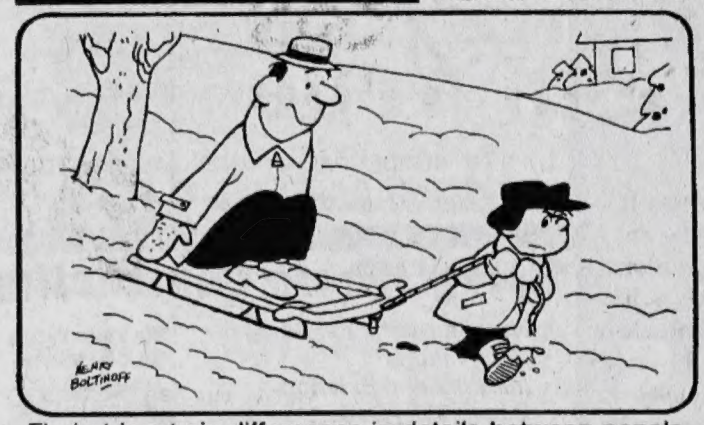
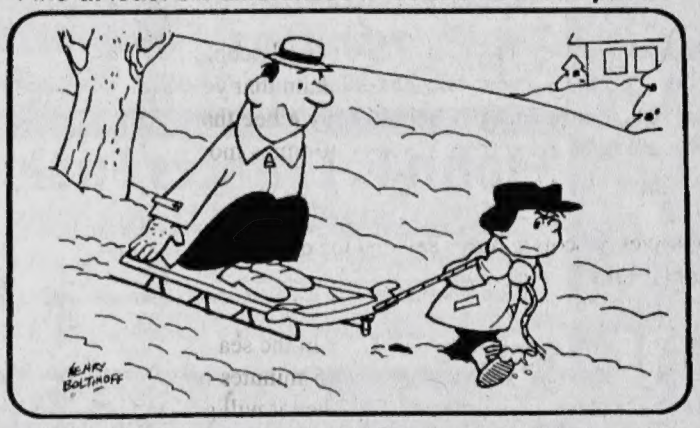
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. House has second window. 2. Man's mitten changed to glove. 3. Rope is longer. 4. Sled runner is different. 5. Tree near house is missing. 6. Tree trunk is wider.

A wealthy yacht owner decided to give his crew a Christmas party in port. He went ashore to round up evergreens, food, musicians and gifts. When he returned, he found all the greens being installed, but on the wrong ship. "Ahoy," he shouted, running down the dock, ... "you're treeing up the wrong barque."

After hearing the Christmas story, and singing "Silent Night" a Sunday School Class in Sao Paulo was asked to draw what they thought the Nativity Scene might have looked like. One boy did a good likeness of Joseph, Mary and the infant, but off to the side was a roly-poly figure.

The teacher, afraid that he had somehow worked Santa Claus into the scene asked him who that was. She wasn't sure whether she was relieved or even more worried when the boy responded, ... "Oh, that's Round John Virgin."

Strange But True

It was 19th-century German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer who made the following sage observation: "If we were not all so interested in ourselves, life would be so uninteresting that none of us would be able to endure it."

Emmy-nominated actress Debbie Reynolds was fired by Warner Brothers after her first movie.

Sharks inspire a great deal of fear in most people. However, the keepers of statistics claim that you are much more likely to be killed by a bee than you are to be killed by a shark -- 50 times more likely, in fact.

Growers of coffee beans say that the coffee blossom smells like jasmine.

When a seal goes to sleep, whether in the sea or on land, it stops breathing. Every 15 minutes or so it will wake up to take a breath, then it will go back to sleep.

When it comes to irrigated crops in the United States, you might be surprised to learn that the plant that covers the most acreage isn't corn, wheat or soybeans; it's grass. Think about that the next time you're watering your lawn.

There's an interesting story behind the name of the Caribbean island of Curacao. It seems that explorer Amerigo Vespucci had several sailors on his ship who were very seriously ill with scurvy, so he dropped them off on the island, assuming they would die. However, the abandoned sailors feasted on fresh fruit, thereby ingesting the vitamin C that cured the disease and saved their lives. The word "curacao" means "cure" in Portuguese.

Here's a disturbing fact for all the arachnophobes reading this: There are more than 34,000 different species of spider.

Thought for the Day: "So long as men worship the Caesars and Napoleons, Caesars and Napoleons will duly rise and make them miserable." -- Aldous Huxley

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Holiday Hours:

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CLOSED Christmas Day (25th)- CLOSED Boxing Day (26th)

OPEN Dec. 28, 29, 30, 31 10am-5pm

CLOSED January 1st, 2010

OPEN Saturday January 2nd, 2010

457-8957

Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings

The turkey's bought and will soon be stuffed;
The guest room's ready, the pillows fluffed.
The closet's full of holiday gifts;
The snow is here, piled up in drifts.
Our plans are made for the coming New Year;
Now it's time to contemplate those who are dear.
We're thinking of you and how special you are;
Next to your name, we've put a star.
"Why?" you ask; well here's a clue:
We feel so blessed that we know you.
Happy Holidays
Thanks you to all our Real Estate Associates.
It has been a pleasure working with you this past year.
Our many thanks to all our Sellers and Buyers
We wish you a very
Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a wonderful New Year.
Gloria and Cindy and families

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